COURT OF APPEALS DIVISION TWO OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

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NO. 45392-4-II

COURT OF APPEALS, DIVISION II OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

JAMES JOHN CHAMBERS, Appellant,

vs.

STATE OF WASHINGTON,

Respondent.

ON APPEAL FROM THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR PIERCE COUNTY HONORABLE THOMAS J. FELNAGLE

APPELLANT'S RAP 10.10 STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL GROUNDS FOR REVIEW

JAMES JOHN CHAMBERS Appellant/Defendant DOC# 743702 Stafford Creek Corrections Center 191 Constantine Way Aberdeen, WA 98520 (360)537-1800

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State v. Harrison, 148 Wn.2d 550, 562, 61 P.3d 1104 (2003)2

ASSIGNMENTS OF ERROR

Assignment of Error No.1: The trial court erred in denying Appellant's motion to withdraw guilty plea.

ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR

- <u>Issue 1.1:</u> Did the law of the case doctrine require the trial court to allow Appellant to withdraw his indivisible quilty plea?
- Issue 1.2: Did res judicata bar relitigation or judicial redetermination of the finding and order previously allowing withdrawl of Appellant's plea in Cause No. 99-1-00817-2?
- <u>Issue 1.3</u>: Did collateral estoppel bar relitigation or judicial redetermination of the finding and order previously allowing withdrawl of Appellant's plea in Cause No. 99-1-00817-2?

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Appellant incorporates by reference all facts presented in Appellant's Opening Brief.

ARGUMENT

- A. THE TRIAL COURT ERRED IN DENYING APPELLANT'S MOTION TO WITHDRAW GUILTY PLEA
- Under the Law of the Case Doctrine the Trial Court was Required to Allow Appellant to Withdraw his Guilty Plea.

The Division Two Court of Appeals ruled, and the Washington Supreme Court affirmed, that based upon Mr. Chambers' predicate showing of sufficient basis to withdraw part of his guilty plea, because said plea was indivisible the invalid portion thus required Mr. Chambers to withdraw the entire plea.

Thus, upon remand, the trial court erred in denying Mr.

Chambers' subsequent motion to withdraw his plea in its entirety,
as the law of the case doctrine controls.

The "law of the case" doctrine generally "refers to 'the binding effect of determination made by the appellate court on further proceedings in the trial court on remand'" or to "the principle that an appellate court will generally not make a redetermination of the rules of law which it has announced in a prior determination in the same case. State v. Harrison, 148 Wn.2d 550, 562, 61 P.3d 1104 (2003)(quoting Lutheran Day Care v. Snohomish County, 119 Wn.2d 91, 113, 829 P.2d 746 (1992)).

The doctrine serves to "promote [] the finality and efficiency of the judicial process by 'protecting against agitation of settled issues.'" Harrison, 148 Wn.2d at 562 (quoting Christianson v. Colt Indus. Operating Corp., 486 U.S. 800, 816, 108 S.Ct. 2166, 100 L.Ed.2d 811 (1988). "The courts apply the doctrine in order 'to avoid indefinite relitigation of the same issue, to obtain consistent results in the same litigation, to afford one opportunity for argument and decision of the matter at issue, and to assure the obedience of lower courts to the decisions of appellate courts.'" Harrison, supra.

It is thus axiomatic that the trial court's prior ruling granting withdrawl of Appellant's plea on Cause No. 99-1-0-00817-2, and the Division Two Court's concurrence as to the underlying facial invalidity, requires that, under the law of the case doctrine,

Mr. Chambers' motion to withdraw his entire indivisible guilty plea must be granted.

As the record clearly shows, the State appealed the trial court's May 28, 2010 ruling, arguing not that the court erred in finding facial invalidity as to Cause No. 99-1-00817-2, but rather a separate argument that the plea involved two other cause numbers and was thus indivisible.

The Court of Appeals agreed with Respondent's argument as to the indivisibility of the plea in its totality, but never reversed the trial court's express finding of facial invalidity as to underlying Cause No. 99-1-00817-2.

Therefore, the State not only received precisely the relief it sought on appeal, but more importantly, the State waived any further challenge as to the facial invalidity of the underlying cause number because the State never appealed the Division Two Court's holding affirming facial invalidity as to Cause No. 99-1-00817-2.

The trial court's initial finding and ruling thus became the law of the case, and based upon the facial invalidity, the only remedy is the withdrawl of the entire indivisible plea. See <u>State v. Barber</u>, 170 Wn.2d 854, 248 P.3d 494 (2011).

 Any Relitigation of Underlying Factors for the Trial Court's Finding and Order Allowing Withdrawl of the Plea as to Cause No. 99-1-00817-2 is Barred by <u>Res Judicata</u>.

In Washington State, <u>res judicata</u> occurs when a prior judgment has a concurrence of identity in four respects with a subsequent

action. There must be identity of (1) subject matter; (2) cause of action; (3) persons and parties; (4) the quality of the persons for or against whom the claim is made." Schroeder v. Excelsion

Management Group, LLC, 177 Wn.2d 94, 108, 297 P.3d 677 (2013).

Res judicata bars the litigation of claims and issues that were litigated, or might have been litigated, in a prior action.

Loveridge v. Fred Meyer, Inc., 125 Wn.2d 759, 763, 887 P.2d 898 (1995). Res judicata bars litigation of a new claim if it relates to a previously dismissed claim based on the "same nucleus of facts." See Ensler v. Pitcher, 152 Wn.App. 891, 904, 222 P.3d 99 (2001).

As the Court's prior published opinion in this case clearly shows, the issues of potential injustice, specific performance, and "compelling reasons to deny [withdrawl of] Chambers' plea agreement" were already litigated, and the State's arguments thereto were subsequently rejected by the Division Two Court. See <u>State</u> v. Chambers, 163 Wn.App. 54, 61 n.9, 256 P.3d 1283 (2011).

Therefore, under <u>res judicata</u>, these issues cannot be revisited by the trial court. Because the trial court already conducted a balancing test as to any potential injustice resulting from withdrawl of the plea in Cause No. 99-1-00817-2, the State cannot have a second bite at the apple, and the trial court cannot make a different finding or ruling by subjecting Mr. Chambers' motion to withdraw the plea to a <u>de novo</u> balancing test.

In the alternative, relitigation or redetermination of facts supporting or opposing withdrawl of the plea was barred by collateral estoppel.

CONCLUSION

The State has fomented a perpetuation of inconsistent and opposing positions which only serve to unjustly prolong Mr. Chambers' remedy of withdrawing his indivisible plea. Appellant respectfully requests that the Court grant this appeal.

RESPECTFULLY submitted this 872 day of July, 2014.

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Appellant, Pro Per
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DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY MAIL GR 3.1

2014 JUL 10 PH 1: U1
I, James J Chambers, declare and say:
That on the 872 day of July 14. I deposited the
following documents in the Stafford Creek Correction Center Legal Mail system, with
First Class U.S. Mail, pre-paid postage affixed, under cause No. 99-1-00817-2:
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addressed to the following:
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915 South Rodge Monday Properly Trooms M. 98405 Tocoms LA 98402
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I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my belief.
DATED THIS 3+h day of July , 2014, in the City of Aberdeen, County of Grays Harbor, State of Washington.
WITH ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
Man Miller
Highatyre
James John Chambers
Printed Name
c/o [DOC <u>7477&7</u> UNIT <u>H·6-A·29</u> STAFFORD CREEK CORRECTIONS CENTER
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Aberdeen Washington (98520)]

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